

What is Claimed Is:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A padlock, comprising:
a casing;
a shackle having a free first end and a second end, the second end being pivotally connected to the casing;
a locking mechanism received within the casing and limiting the axial movement of the second end of the shackle;
a ~~latching tube~~ key operating means comprising a latching tube and a key, wherein the latching tube is received and operative to be moved within the casing and adapted to receive the key therein and moved in conjunction with the movement of the key; and
a stop member driven by the latching tube so as to be moved in conjunction with the latching tube operated by the key between a first position where the first end of the shackle can be rotated by using the second end thereof as a center of rotation when the axial movement of the second end of the shackle is limited by the locking mechanism, and a second position where the stop member prevents the first end of the shackle from moving and the shackle and the casing co-define a closed loop.

Claim 2 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, further comprising an elastic element received within the casing for biasing the stop member toward the first position.

Claim 3 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the stop member forms a hole for receiving the first end of the shackle.

Claim 4 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the stop member has at least one stop block extending therefrom, and when the stop member is moved to the second position, the stop block is located on the path of rotation of the first end of the shackle for securing the shackle.

Claim 5 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching tube is a disc tumbler cylinder.

Claim 6 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching tube is a pin tumbler cylinder.

Claim 7 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching tube and the stop member are integrally formed.

Claim 8 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching tube and the stop member are directed to two separate members.

Claim 9 (Original) The padlock according to Claim 8, wherein the latching tube and the stop member form an inclined surface respectively which face each other such that the stop member is driven by the latching tube along the inclined surfaces thereof.

Claim 10 (Original) The padlock according to Claim 8, wherein the latching tube and the stop member form teeth respectively which are engagable with each other such that the stop member is driven by the latching tube by means of the engagement of the teeth therebetween.

Claim 11 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a shoulder protruding from the second end of the shackle and a hole formed within the casing for receiving the shoulder.

Claim 12 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is operative in a way that when the locking mechanism is actuated, the second end of the shackle can move axially.

Claim 13 (Original): The padlock according to Claim 12, wherein the locking mechanism is a combination locking mechanism.